What is Creative Commons?

https://creativecommons.org

Creative Commons (CC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that develops, supports, and stewards legal and technical infrastructure that maximizes digital creativity, sharing, and innovation.

Creative Commons is pleased to participate as a formal observer to WIPO, and has been mentioned in several WIPO forums already, including the WIPO Committee on Development and IP (CDIP) 4th Session (November 2009) and 5th Session (April 2010), as well as the Enabling Creativity in the Digital Environment: Copyright Documentation and Infrastructure conference (October 2011).

What does Creative Commons provide?

Creative Commons offers a suite of free copyright licenses that give creators a simple, standardized way to retain their copyright while allowing certain uses of their work — a "some rights reserved" approach to copyright.

CC licenses apply to works that are protected by copyright law. The kinds of works that are protected by copyright law include books, websites, blogs, photographs, films, videos, songs, and other audio & visual recordings.

CC public domain tools, on the other hand, enable authors and copyright owners who want to dedicate their works to the worldwide public domain to do so, and facilitate the labeling and discovery of works that are already free of known copyright restrictions.

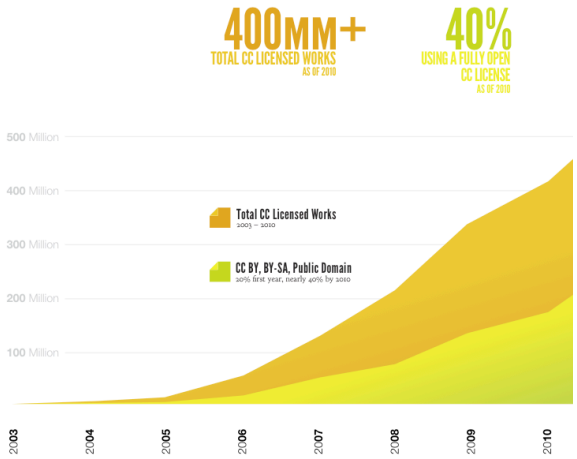
How is Creative Commons useful?

CC licenses create a balance inside the traditional "all rights reserved" copyright regime, and help lower the transaction costs normally associated with seeking permission to use works by granting some rights in advance. CC supports access to knowledge by advancing an opt-in, flexible approach to licensing creative content.

CC is the global standard for open content licensing. CC licenses and tools are easy to understand and use, implementing a "3 layer" framework that consists of 1) a deed that simplifies the terms of each license into a few universal icons and non-technical language,
2) a license text, which has been vetted by a global team of legal experts, and 3) machine-readable code that enables search and discovery via search engines such as Google.

What is the impact of Creative Commons?

CC's licenses and public domain tools are used by individuals, cultural, educational, scientific and research institutions, governments, and companies worldwide. There are more than 400 million CC-licensed works published on the Web. Creative Commons has worked with copyright experts around the world to make sure its licenses are legally sound, operable worldwide, and responsive to the needs of users. CC tools are increasingly of interest to policymakers in those areas where access to quality educational, scientific, and cultural materials has been less than optimal.



- 30 national governments employ CC tools to clarify how their citizens and persons around the world can reuse government-funded data, official reports and media, research, and educational resources. By communicating these rights to users in advance, governments support the efficient use of resources and encourage further innovation and creativity.

What is the impact of CC? (cont.)

- The CC0 public domain dedication is used to remove copyright restrictions from data sets used to conduct research to combat diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Releasing data sets directly into the public domain via CC0 facilitates widespread use of that data by scientists around the world to develop vaccines and other treatments.

- CC licenses provide the underlying infrastructure that supports sharing and reuse of hundreds of thousands of Open Educational Resources, from interactive learning objects to high quality videos to complete courses. CC licensed educational content can be easily discovered online, so teachers, students, and self-learners have easy access to resources they can reuse, revise, remix, and redistribute.

- The CC-powered Public Domain Mark will be used to label millions of out-of-copyright works shared via Europeana, allowing users around the world to discover a rich trove of literature, art, and cultural public domain works free of copyright restrictions.

- CC serves the needs of open access publishing around the world. Individuals and open access journals use CC licensing to release thousands of scholarly articles. CC licensing makes this literature more accessible and useful by communicating usage rights in advance, and sets up the conditions to enable important breakthroughs in science, medicine, and technology.

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Creative Commons Public Domain Tools

http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/

CC0 Public Domain Dedication
CC0 enables owners of copyright-protected content to waive copyright interests in their works and thereby place them as close as possible to the public domain.

Public Domain Mark
Public Domain Mark (PDM) is a tool that allows works already in the public domain to be marked and tagged in a way that clearly communicates the work's public domain status, and allows it to be easily discovered.

Creative Commons Affiliate Network

http://wiki.creativecommons.org/CC_Affiliate_Network

The CC Affiliate Network consists of 100+ affiliates working in over 70 jurisdictions to support and promote CC activities around the world.